CREDITS
translation kurcnal
editing Enigma

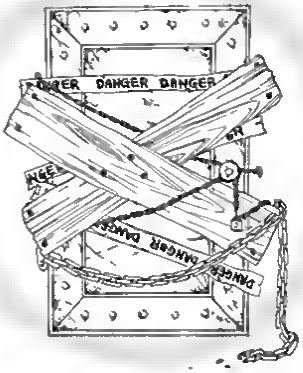
ねるぺき新連載☆
堤翔リターンズ!!
新作よみきり
40P
鍵と鏡でがんじがらめの日常が…?
猫森くんの秘密の扉
Nekomori's Secret Door
ミステリアス・シークレットストーリー
堤翔
Kakeru Tsutsumi

I HAVE A SECRET–
AN ABSOLUTE SECRET.
NEKOMORI!
NOW, NOW.
NO SLEEP-ING IN CLASS!
YOU SEE...

...I CAN SEE...
...
THE DOORS TO OTHER PEOPLE'S HEARTS.
IS MY CLASS REALLY THAT BORING?
I'M SORRY.
Mathematics III
Aww, Nekomori.
!
creak

You want to catch my attention, is that it?!
creak
You only sleep in my class, don't you?
I know! I should make him come and see me at the prep lab one of these days, and then...
YIKES!
Tee hee hee hee hee!
And look at his hair! Always so soft♡
Ah, I want to touch it!
Oh, my! What if I'm right?
...
TSK.

That Hotta dotes on Nekomori the whole damn time!
No, scratch that—all them ladies do!
'The hell? He's just a pretty face!
AND THERE YOU HAVE IT.
...
EVERY SINGLE DAY OF MY LIFE,
ding
I'M BOMBARDED WITH OTHER PEOPLE'S THOUGHTS.
wobble
dong
THAT ROCKER-WANNABE IS TOTALLY ... BIASED.
SO...



MY OWN DOOR LOOKS LIKE THIS.

...I'M GUESSING ...

...

WHY **SHOULD** I TRUST PEOPLE?

AREN'T WE THE BEST OF BUDDIES, NEKOMORI?

If I hang around him, girls will come flocking to **me**. Heh.

This guy's the chick magnet.

IN ALL 18 YEARS OF MY LIFE,

MY LOOKS HAVE EARNED ME...

A HORDE OF FAN GIRLS AND MORTAL ENEMIES.

I'M REALLY SORRY, MS. HOTTA, BUT I HAVE A SEVERE, EXCRUCIATING, MADDENING, DEADLY, MAJOR STOMACH-ACHE! PLEASE EXCUSE ME!
I NEED YOU TO HELP ME WITH—
SAY,
COULD YOU COME AND SEE ME AT THE PREP LAB DURING LUNCH?
NEKO-MORI!
Come to me, my darling! Come, come, come!
EVERY WORD THAT COMES OUT OF THEIR MOUTHS...
IS A LIE.
HOTTA IS CREEPY.

...
OH, WOW!
THE CUTEST THING EVER!
...
HUH?

I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM UP CLOSE,
THE GORGEOUS GUY ALL THE GIRLS GO GA-GA OVER?!
BUT NOW THAT I AM, I CAN SEE WHY—HE'S PRETTY ENOUGH TO PASS FOR A GIRL!
...
THE NEKO-MORI?!
NEKO-MORI?!
OH, NEKO-MORI?
HUH? WHAT IS?
EVEN YOUR SUR-NAME IS CUTE!
Neko-mori.*
MM?
WHAT'S WITH THESE PEOPLE?
pissed
Ha ha!
NO KIDDING! HE LOOKS MORE LIKE A GIRL THAN YOU!
Ha ha ha ha!
Touché!
I CAN'T DENY THAT!

*Literally, "cat forest."

DID I OFFEND YOU? I REALLY DIDN'T MEAN TO!
ACK!
I'M SORRY!
stare
...
MY NAME IS RITSU SENGOKU.
YOU WERE LOOKING SO CUTE, I COULDN'T HELP~
Oops!
There I go again!
Ha ha!
...
I'M AI...
AI NEKO-MORI...
AI!*
Pfft!
Ha!
AND A PRETTY NAME TO BOOT!
THIS GIRL...
*Literally, "love."

...SAYS EXACTLY WHAT SHE THINKS!
ding
dong
sit
DO THEY REALLY EXIST?
PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD WHO MEAN EVERY WORD THEY SAY– WHO DON'T LIE, PERIOD?
rustle
on bread
YEAH. SHE JUST HAPPENED TO BE SAYING THE THINGS THAT WERE IN HER HEAD.
nod nod
step
I DON'T REMEMBER EVER MEETING ANYONE LIKE THAT.
HEY, AI!
flomp
volt
on bread

choke
AH.
Don't have many friends?
ALONE?
JUST CALL ME RITSU.
DO YOU USUALLY EAT UP HERE?
S-
SEN-GOKU ...
cough
SHE CALLED ME BY NAME.
SURE ...
IS IT OK IF I JOIN YOU, THEN?
AH HA HA!
cough
UH, UM, WELL...
cough
HER DOOR WAS OPEN FROM THE START, TOO.
IS SHE JUST AN UPBEAT PERSON ...
OR...
SHE... REALLY ONLY SPEAKS HER MIND.
glance
open

In this story, I enjoyed drawing Ms. Hotta the most, and no mistake. Though, her love will probably never be realized.

Please send your letters to this address.

Kakeru Tsutsumi
Hana to Yume Editorial
Hakusensha
2-2-2
Kanda Awaji-cho
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Tokyo 101-0063

...
YOU THINK SO?
SO, SEN–
YEAH.
I MEAN, RITSU, DID YOU FIX IT YOURSELF?
YES.
NEAT.
IT'S GOT THAT FEMININE TOUCH.
WHA–
blush
NO!
Wah!
YOU'D BEAT ME HANDS DOWN!
NO, NO, NO, NO, NO, NO, NO!
I'M NOT FEMININE AT ALL! I'M NOT EVEN REMOTELY ATTRACTIVE OR ANYTHING!
shake shake shake
YOU GO THAT FAR TO DISCREDIT YOURSELF?
WHY ARE YOU COMPARING US ANYWAY? THAT'S JUST WRONG.
HUH?
Eek!
ME AND CUTE DON'T BELONG IN THE SAME SENTENCE!
IT'S THE TRUTH!
EVEN HER INNER SELF IS IN FULL DENIAL.
No, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no!

I THINK YOU'RE ADORABLE.
THAT'S NOT TRUE.
YOU ARE A GIRL, INSIDE AND OUT.
HUH?
...
?
UM...
thump
...
B-BUT...
AREN'T I TOO BLUNT FOR MY OWN GOOD?
A LOT OF PEOPLE CALL ME TACT-LESS.
I FIGURE I SHOULD FIX THAT PART OF ME.

Ai,
IN THE END,
MY ONLY OPTION IS TO BE UP-FRONT.
are you sick of me?
BUT?
BUT...
THE WAY I SEE IT,
ONCE WE LIE TO SOME-BODY,
OUR RELATION-SHIP WITH THEM—
EVERY-THING BUILT AROUND IT BECOMES A LIE.
NAH.
THAT'S WHAT I LIKE ABOUT YOU.
HUH?
OF COURSE NOT.
Bread

smile
IT'S A COMFORT TO KNOW.
UP UNTIL NOW,
I WAS CONVINCED TRUTHFUL PEOPLE WERE A MYTH.
LIKE WHAT?
WH-WHY ... WH-
ARE YOU SMILING LIKE THAT?
!
ding
dong
THAT'S WHY...

I FEEL LIKE...
OH!
slide
GOING HOME, AI?
...I CAN TRUST RITSU'S EACH AND EVERY WORD.
HEY.
dash
YEP.
IS IT ME OR IS THERE SOMETHING DIFFERENT ABOUT YOU?
HUH?
...
AH.
IT'S THE SKIRT.
EEK!
I USUALLY WEAR MY TRACK-SUIT, BUT TODAY, UM...
AH, UM, UH!
I HAVEN'T WORN MY SCHOOL UNIFORM IN AGES!
I MEAN, IT'S A WASTE NOT TO WEAR IT,
RIGHT?
panic
panic
panic
RIGHT.
IT IS.
AND-
AND-

I WANTED TO,
–I...
AT THE VERY LEAST, LOOK LIKE A GIRL.
...
YEAH.
OF COURSE, THE SKIRT LOOKS GOOD ON YOU.
CUTE.

"NEKOMORI, COULD IT BE THAT YOU HAVE FEELINGS FOR ME?"
≥ba-dump≤
WHAT THE HECK?
Who's she supposed to be?
OR SOME-THING!
IF I WAS SOME OTHER GIRL, I WOULD HAVE TAKEN IT THE WRONG WAY.
OW!
YOU'RE SAYING ... THAT AGAIN!
SMACK
DANGER
HA HA!
THOSE HONEST WORDS...
I'LL SEE YOU TO-MORROW, THEN!
AND THAT GENUINE SMILE...

...THEY STIR UP...
SOMETHING DEEP WITHIN MY SOUL.
GOOD MORNING, SENGOKU.
IT'S UNUSUAL FOR YOU TO BE THIS LATE, BUT–
GOOD MORNING, MS. HOTTA!
ZIP
THERE'S NO NEED... TO RUSH.
...
dash
dash
dash
dash
dash

Today, Nekomori will be mine!
Heh heh heh
gasp
Never mind that.
Hee
Boo
dash
...
"CUTE."
...

tap
THE THINGS ...
chatter
chatter
step
step
step
RITSU SAID YESTER-DAY...
KEEP COMING BACK TO ME.
HAS...
SOME-THING LIKE THIS EVER HAPPENED TO ME?

I'VE FORGOTTEN HOW TO OPEN IT.
MY DOOR IS COMPLETELY RUSTY.
IT'S BEEN SO LONG.
IT WON'T BUDGE.
DANGER
AND I WANT HER...
TO KNOW ME.
I WANT TO...
GET TO KNOW HER.

HUH?
...
WH-
WHAT IS IT?
I WAS WONDERING ...
...
LIKE, WHEN DID YOU GUYS BECOME FRIENDS?
ARE YOU TWO CLOSE?
THAT GIRL YOU TALKED TO YESTERDAY -SENGOKU, WAS IT?-
SHE DOESN'T SEEM LIKE YOUR TYPE.
WELL,
UH...
WHY DO YOU ASK?
"I'M RIGHT HERE!"
I WANT TO SHOUT,
NEKOMORI!

SENGOKU HAS A GREAT FIGURE AND ALL, BUT SHE'S KIND OF LIKE, I DON'T KNOW,
A MAN?
I KNOW, RIGHT?
I ALWAYS SEE HER PLAY BASKET-BALL AND STUFF WITH THE GUYS.
SHE'S MADE FOR SPORTS, I GUESS.
Ha ha All hot and sweaty
A girl like her is no match for Nekomori.
I'm way hotter!
Who does she think she is? She's step-ping on my turf.
She should just stick to her stinky, muscle-for-brains friends. Seriously!
NOT TO BE RUDE, BUT-
!

RITSU!
MORNING!
start
HI...
HEY.
YOU LOOK DIFFERENT TODAY.
!
flinch
AH.

I'M IN CHARGE OF CLEAN-ING DUTY TODAY.
No,
actually, I'm not.
UMM ...
SORRY, I'M IN A HURRY.
HUH?
I...

...don't want to be anywhere near you right now.
slither
BYE.
tap

YEAH.
I DON'T KNOW HER THAT WELL, BUT SHE DOES SEEM LIKE A FUN PERSON.
YOU WENT OUT OF YOUR WAY TO SAY HI TO HER, TOO.
patter
patter
patter
WHAT WAS THAT?
Fun? More like freaky.
How dare that freak even talk to Nekamari!
...
What's her problem?
She needs to stay away from Nekomori.
clunk
clang

OUR RELATION-SHIP WITH THEM–
EVERY-THING BUILT AROUND IT BECOMES A LIE.
DANGER

WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW THE *FIRST* THING ABOUT HER!
YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO JUDGE RITSU...
whwl
RITSU'S HONEST-TO-GOODNESS WORDS...
AND HER GENUINE SMILE...
I SWEAR...
THEY SHOOK AND RATTLED THE DOOR TO MY HEART, RUSTY AS IT WAS.
HUH?
...
dash
BUT...

I WANT TO KNOW ...
WHAT SHE REALLY FEELS.
EVEN IF I HAVE TO...
DESTROY MY OWN DOOR IN THE PROCESS.
reach
grip

WRENCH
GRAB
GRAB
CLINK

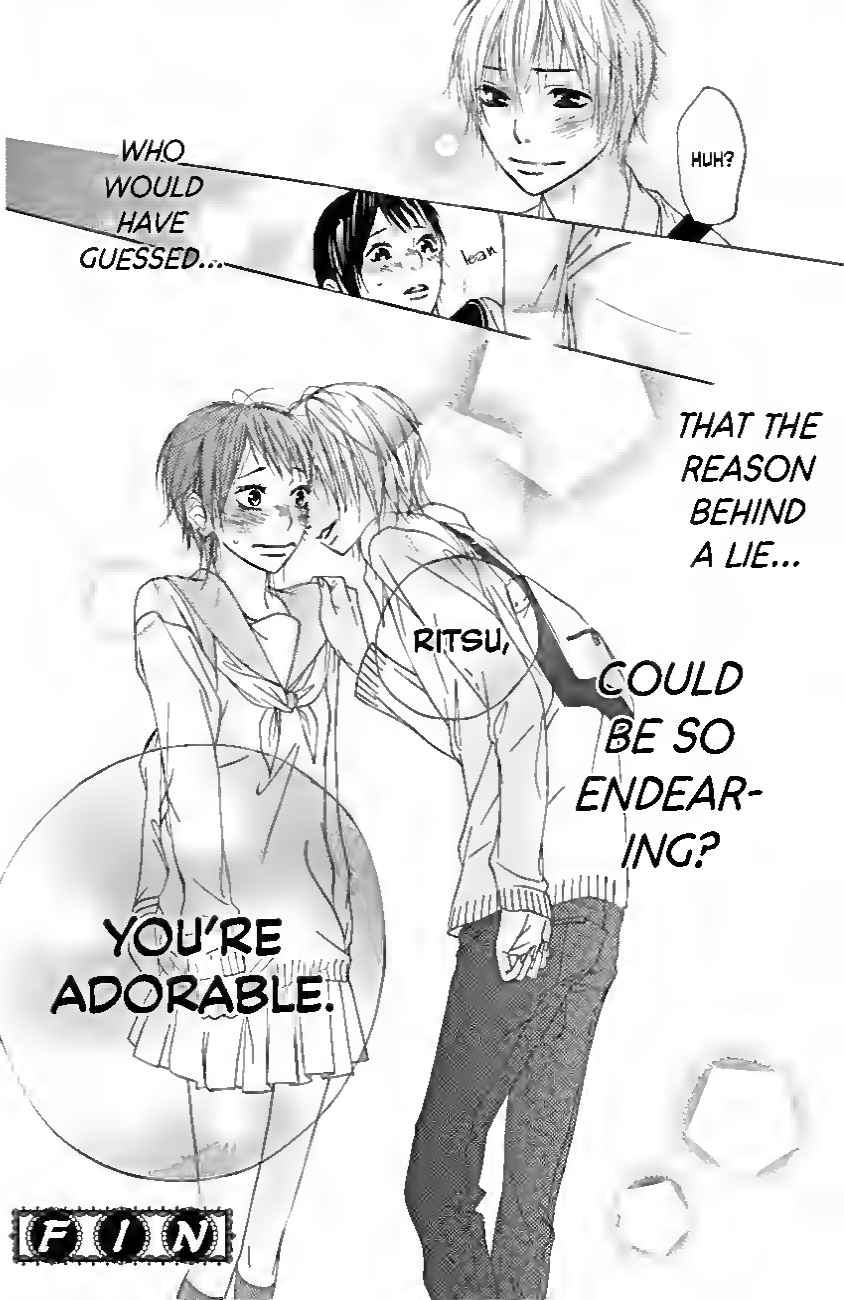
IT'S NOT THAT I'M NOT AFRAID...
BECAUSE, HELL, I AM.
...!
CRUMBLE
CRUMBLE
yank
KICK

STILL...
...
HUH?
I DON'T WANT TO SHUT THE DOOR ON YOU ANY-MORE.
I'VE HAD IT.

I...
WANT TO BE BY YOUR SIDE.
A-
Ai,
THE BELL-
dong
dong
WHAT... DOOR?
...!
BEING WITH YOU... IT'S FUN AND RELAX-ING.
OTHER PEOPLE HAVE NOTHING ON YOU.
THE BRAIDS ...
WERE A NICE TOUCH.
WHY'D YOU GO AND TAKE THEM OUT?
FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER...

B-
...I FELT COMPELLED TO FIND OUT...
WHY SOMEBODY HAD LIED.
BECAUSE I SAW YOU WITH THOSE PRETTY GIRLS.
I...
I PUT IN A LOT OF EFFORT TO LOOK GOOD.
TODAY...

WHEN YOU COMPLIMENTED ME, I WENT OVER THE MOON.
BUT THEN I SAW THE GIRLS YOU WERE WITH.
THEY WERE DROP-DEAD GORGEOUS. AND IT HIT ME.
ME, CUTE? WHO WAS I KIDDING? I WANTED THE GROUND TO SWALLOW ME UP!
And yet...
I want to hear...
...you tell me I'm adorable again.
GOOD THING...
...I TORE THE DOOR DOWN.
hold
I'VE TOLD YOU, OVER AND OVER AGAIN.


WHO WOULD HAVE GUESSED...
HUH?
THAT THE REASON BEHIND A LIE...
RITSU,
COULD BE SO ENDEAR-ING?
YOU'RE ADORABLE.
FIN